



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Len Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Dick Brown
(502) 564-5525**

Warren County Public Schools receive Energy Leadership Award

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Oct. 21, 2010) – Warren County Public Schools today accepted one of two Energy Leadership Awards from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet at the 34th Governor's Conference on the Environment in Louisville.

Energy Leadership Awards are presented to leaders in the Kentucky energy field who have made a positive impact on Kentuckians by promoting energy efficiency and the exploration and usage of alternative energy sources. Warren County Public Schools received the award due to exemplary efforts to increase the energy efficiency of its buildings. Since 2003, the district has implemented energy-saving programs that have avoided more than \$5.4 million in energy costs. With the rapid success of energy management strategies, the district took on the challenge of constructing more efficient school buildings.

"As a school system that strives to be environmentally responsible and teaches children about the importance of sustainability and energy efficiency, Warren County is very deserving of this recognition," said First Lady Jane Beshear. "I hope other schools in Kentucky will learn from this example."

Warren County Public Schools is home to 11 ENERGY STAR school buildings and recently opened the doors to Richardsville Elementary, which is the first net-zero energy school in the nation, producing as much energy as it consumes in a year through use of photovoltaic (solar) panels.

"Through the construction of Richardsville Elementary, Warren County Public Schools challenged itself to build a school that would not only consume less energy than average school buildings, but would also produce clean energy using photovoltaic panels. This is an exceptional accomplishment in itself," said Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters. "The district is commended for implementing energy strategies into every facet of its students' education, from building sustainable, efficient

buildings to including energy and environmental education into the curriculum. It is truly a leader in sustainable energy practices."

"We are delighted and humbled to be nominated for, much less receive such a distinct honor," Warren County Public Schools Superintendent Tim Murley said. "We strive to constantly be mindful of our budgets to always maximize our children's opportunities for success, and have found energy avoidance to be a key component to ensuring that happens. It has been a rewarding experience to see how the students learn from our energy savings initiatives, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow through their solar studies, which was only made possible with the significant backing of the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence."

Kenton County School District also received an Energy Leadership Award at the conference.

For more information on energy efficiency programs in Kentucky schools visit <http://energy.ky.gov>.

###